

WHAT TO DO WITH OUR CONSTITUTION.

The eleventh article of the Constitution relates to punishment for crime, to the institutions provided for that purpose, and to State institutions for charitable purposes.

The only change in this article, proposed by the amendments, is made by adding a provision to the first section authorizing all convicts, sentenced to hard labor, to be employed on public works or highways or other labor for the public benefit, and the farming out of the same where and in such manner as may be provided by law. No convict shall be farmed out, however, who has been sentenced on a charge of murder, rape, attempt to commit rape, or arson.

The object of this amendment is plain to the commonest understanding. It is to save money, and at the same time to benefit the State by carrying on the public works of various kinds that are so much needed for the development of its resources. Ever watchful of the interests of the people, the Democratic party at its recent Convention pledged itself to use the convict labor of the State for the purpose of securing the completion of those great works of improvement that shall bring together in more intimate union the people of the East and the people of the West, thereby giving each section easy access to other markets than its own for the sale of its surplus products.

This policy must commend itself to the judgment of every one. Indeed, the Democratic Legislature has already acted upon it, but owing to a question that has been raised as to the constitutionality of such a course, it was thought best to remove all doubt by making this amendment to the Constitution.

By this means the State will get the benefit of the labor of the convicts and the expense of entertaining so many colored gentlemen of elegant leisure at the penitentiary will be avoided.

The penitentiary has provoked a grievance burden to the tax payers of North Carolina. Near a million of dollars has been expended upon it and in feeding the convicts, and it is full time to make the convicts useful as well as ornamental. Let them earn their bread and meat, their victuals and clothes. They are generally people who have sought to live by stealing rather than by honest work. They have lived in that way long enough, let them now be put to work upon our railroads and other public improvements.

If some such disposition as this be not made of the criminals of the State they will necessarily have to be kept in confinement in our jails and penitentiary and thereby entail upon the people the expenditure of vast sums of money for houses for them to live in and for food for them to eat, without any corresponding advantage to the State. The number of convicts in the State is now about 1,000. The administration of the law is now so great that the tax upon the State for their keep and maintenance is no light burden, and this must be so as long as deprivation of personal liberty with or without hard labor is the penalty affixed by law to so many crimes.

That it is a hardship thus to tax good men for the support of bad men is undoubtedly true, but like many other hardships of this life, it must be borne for the reason, if for no other, that it is cheaper for the good men to support criminals in confinement than to permit them to go at large. The good of the community absolutely requires that crime shall be punished at any cost, but at the same time common sense teaches that criminals ought to be made to earn their living, if it be possible to do so. The amendment proposed to give the State the benefit of the labor of criminals is obliged to feed and clothe. That is all the change the amendment's purpose to make in this matter. Let them be reformed.

AFRAID OF THE PEOPLE.
The constitutional amendment abridging the powers of licentious executives and recognizing the people as the source of all power, which of all the amendments, says the Statesville Landmark, should have received the hearty endorsement of every member of the Convention was opposed by the Radicals as a party measure. The Canby Constitution was let to contract by head workmen at Washington and the "hands" in Raleigh were directed to centralize our State government and thus crush out the people. The amendment is in harmony with the Democratic principles of our government; nips the rapidly growing and dangerous prerogative of the Governor and turns over to the people's representatives, the management, supervision and control of the railroads and charitable and penal institutions of the State, and will promote fidelity and economy in their management.

SETTLE AT HOME AND SETTLE ABROAD.
Addressing a reunion of Federal soldiers at Dayton, Ohio, last fall, Judge Settle said:

"I appear before you a thoroughly whipped and reconstructed rebel, that has come to Dayton to take of his hat to the brave defenders of the Union."

Addressing the crowd assembled at Jonesboro last week, to see Vance wear him out to a frazzle, Judge Settle said:

"You Ku Klux scoundrels. You infernal fiends of hell."

Judge Euro opened his court in the town of Hertford, week before last, it being the usual time for holding the fall term for Perquimans county. The grand jury found a true bill of indictment against Simon White, for breaking in Daugherty & McMillins store and stealing a bolt of goods. White is president of the Hayes and Wheeler club of that place. He was arrested and in default of bond was cooped to await the action of the court.

AND SETTLE SUSTAINED HIM.

We publish this morning a portion of the testimony of Hon. Josiah Turner, Jr., giving somewhat in detail the treatment he received while a prisoner during the Holden-Kirk war. It will be remembered that Mr. Turner was arrested by order of Governor Holden in the county of Orange by a body of armed men from Kirk's Regiment. It will be remembered also that the county of Orange had not been put under martial law as provided for by the infamous Shoofar act, that the writ of Habeas Corpus, that "little piece of paper," as Judge Settle calls it, had not been suspended and that Governor Holden ordered the arrest for strong denunciatory language used by Mr. Turner about him; not stronger, however, than that used by Judge Settle the other day at Jonesboro, when he called a portion of his audience "infernal fiends of hell." It will be remembered also that upon the article of impeachment charging Governor Holden with a violation of the law in the arrest of Mr. Turner, that even Radical Senators voted guilty. It will be remembered that during the whole Kirk war Judge Settle substantially sustained Governor Holden and his army, and that too when he could have driven them from the field at any time at a moment's notice, simply by signing his name to the writ of Habeas Corpus. It will be remembered also that the Radical Party, at its first State Convention thereafter, formally and emphatically endorsed every thing Holden did. It will be remembered also that the same Judge Settle is now its candidate for Governor and that the same Holden is its chief adviser.

We trust our readers will bear with us for referring thus to the sickening and disgusting details of the outrages inflicted upon innocent and honorable citizens by a brutal soldierly under orders from the Chief Executive and sustained by the Supreme Judiciary of the State. The fact that the Radical Party has so persistently and so recently endorsed and adopted the acts and the policy of Governor Holden's administration during the time he was, with the assistance of Judge Settle, military monarch in North Carolina, makes it our duty to tell the people plainly what those acts were. But the half of Holden's outrages will never be known. We print this morning from the Report of the Holden impeachment, page 894, as follows:

Josiah Turner, Jr., being duly sworn testified as follows:

"I was carried to Yanceyville on the 13th and I remained in the court house until Saturday, the 13th. Q. Was anything done to you pending that time? A. The first two or three days I was a prisoner in the room where they said Stevens had been murdered."

Q. Who was with you? A. No one. On Monday night some one came in with a bucket of water and threw it upon my bed. I was a good long while before I could get up. I was then taken to a room, nearly half the length of the Senate chamber. I ran the fellow to the door and I enquired of the man at the door who it was and he said it was directly some man came up and said that the sentinel and told him it was a man who had been taken to the room. He said: "You had better hold your tongue about it, it was one of the officers who did it." The next night the same thing was repeated, though a less quantity of water was thrown. All the windows were put down and as it was hot weather I asked if the windows could not be raised. He said the orders were to keep them down, and they were kept down all night. The next night, when the water was thrown, I ran for the fellow who threw the water on Kirk came up."

Q. Was that water thrown on you or the bed? A. On me and on the bed. He came up

